



WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE FOR HUMANITARIAN WORK

MAY 19 – 20, 2015

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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1. Introduction and background

Throughout the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) network and the wider humanitarian community there is an increasing recognition of the need and value of collecting and producing evidence to support and enhance humanitarian work across all sectors. Conducting research is an important part of building an evidence base and can make a number of valuable contributions to humanitarian work, including more reliable knowledge about what works and what doesn't work and why. This can lead to more efficient aid, an increase in impact, heightened credibility of humanitarian work, more accountability and an understanding of future trends.

In 2012 the IFRC commissioned a study to compile and assess the existing experiences with research and the need to build capacities within the RCRC network. More recently, this has been complemented by an analysis of research needs and capacities in the IFRC and National Societies. These assessments highlight a great diversity of engagement in research activities across the IFRC and National Societies; however, there is a lack of collaboration and information exchange on research activities. Key findings of the assessments include the need to build a common vision for and understanding of research and evidence across the network and a demand for enhanced knowledge and information sharing to learn from otherwise dispersed research activities.

To bring together the growing institutional experiences within the RCRC network the IFRC Research and Learning Department together with the Global Disaster Preparedness Center organized a workshop on research and evidence based approaches for humanitarian work in May 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. A total of 30 participants from National Societies, Reference Centres, IFRC Zone Offices and Secretariat representing all regions came together for a two day workshop to focus and synthesize the discussion on research understanding and collaboration within the RCRC network.

2. Workshop aims and objectives

During a brief appearance at the workshop IFRC Secretary General, Mr. Elhadj As Sy, confirmed that research and the development of an evidence base are essential for the RCRC network. Acknowledging that 'evidence' can change over time, Mr. Sy reiterated that the RCRC network together with its partners needs to continuously learn from past mistakes and successes, and look into the future and forecast pathways to success in order to enhance services and program delivery with the aim to prevent and alleviate human suffering worldwide.

Taking into consideration that it was the first time a diverse group of actors from different regions came together for a global workshop, the event aimed to create the momentum necessary to make progress on strengthening research and evidence based approaches to humanitarian work by providing a platform to generate ideas and formulate solutions. The objective of the workshop was to create an opportunity to consolidate ideas that provide the RCRC with possible solutions for (1) systematising access to qualitative and quantitative data and analysis, and (2) facilitating collaboration among researchers in order to (3) increase use of research and evidence by decision makers and practitioners.

3. Overview of content

In preparation for the workshop, participants were asked to fill out a survey to provide input into the development of the workshop agenda and content. Consultation findings fed into the design and content of the workshop sessions and were presented to participants during the introductory session of the workshop. A full analysis of the consultation data is included in Annex A.

The two day workshop was structured into a series of sessions facilitated either in plenary or in small groups. The plenary sessions were focused on introducing the workshop and individual sessions, feeding back small group discussions to the broader group, and synthesising solutions to take forward. The small group sessions focused on the three main topics areas, accessing, sharing and using research and evidence, with discussions serving to identify challenges and possible solutions. The workshop sessions were supported by presentations from workshop participants, aiming to share knowledge and inspire discussion.

The workshop agenda outlining the workshop sessions and presentations is included in Annex B.

Two additional presentations not listed in the agenda were included in the workshop:

- Aude Galli, the Regional Humanitarian Diplomacy Advisor for the IFRC's East Africa and Indian Ocean Regional Representation Office, discussed the recent "Think Space" Session on Humanitarian Research and Evidence hosted by the International Center for Humanitarian Affairs (hosted by the Kenyan Red Cross) and the IFRC in Nairobi on April 10th 2015. This event consisted of a number of presentations and discussions related to research being conducted in the region with a focus on translating research into decision making, particularly in relation to policy and institutional learning.
- Mukul Bhola from the IFRC Planning and Evaluation Department and Professor Mukesh Kapila gave a presentation on the Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System, some of its key functions and its utility as an open data system.

4. Workshop vision

The workshop was framed as an important step in a longer-term initiative to strengthen research and evidence-based practice in the IFRC and RCRC National Societies, which was captured in the vision provided in the workshop briefing note, as stated below.

"The overarching vision is for the RCRC to remain a respected source for humanitarian action, knowledge and information by effectively using research and evidence based approaches to strengthen its work."

During the second plenary session of the workshop participants were given time to review the vision and propose any necessary modifications before moving forward to the key workshop sessions. Key critiques of the vision referred to the absence of beneficiaries from the statement (i.e. Who are we doing this for? Who will benefit from an evidence-based approach?), and the use of the language for the "RCRC to remain a respected source", which was seen as unnecessarily defensive. Participants agreed that an emphasis on actions should be the primary focus of the statement.

Two possible replacement visions were presented by the groups.

- The RCRC carries out, shares and effectively uses relevant and high quality research and evidence-based approaches for the benefit of humanitarian work.

- To be the most effective and impactful source of humanitarian action, knowledge and information using research and evidence-based approaches.

Taking into account the participant's feedback the vision was adjusted the following way:

“The overarching vision is for the RCRC to be the most effective and impactful source of humanitarian action, knowledge and information by conducting, sharing and effectively using research and evidence-based approaches to strengthen its work and better serve the most vulnerable people worldwide.”

5. Analysis of giving and receiving

In the introductory session of the workshop, participants were asked to introduce themselves to the group by stating what they could/would like **to give** during the workshop, and what they would like **to receive** as a result of their participation.

Almost all workshop participants stated that they could share their knowledge, expertise, experiences or information related to their research and evidence-based practice, including stories of both challenges and successes. Some participants also stated that they would be willing to explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration, while others said that they would be willing to give their commitment to contribute to the workshop group and future initiatives, including championing an evidence-based approach in their respective organisations or regions.

In relation to what participants wanted to receive, there was substantial crossover with participants' expectations of the workshop outlined in the consultation data. There was also crossover with what participants were willing to give to the group, with the majority of participants expressing interest in receiving knowledge, information, experiences, learning and existing tools from other workshop participants (particularly in relation to translating research and evidence into practice). Some participants also referred to receiving stronger opportunities for collaboration, mainly in relation to developing solutions for existing problems and challenges to evidence-based work in the RCRC network. Specific types of collaboration mentioned included: developing a systematic knowledge sharing platform, being part of a research working group developed out of the workshop, developing peer-to-peer review within the working group, being part of a coordinated research structure at the federation level (including creating a research strategy and agenda), collaborating to obtain funding and contributing to the development of ethics and standards for research.

6. Challenges and solutions identified

A number of challenges to accessing, sharing and using research and evidence were identified in the two IFRC research capacity assessments that fed into the conceptualisation of the workshop. Some of these challenges were also highlighted in the workshop consultation data. While some of these challenges were reiterated during the workshop, a number of different dimensions to these challenges were explored and some new challenges identified. A number of possible solutions or steps towards identifying solutions were also generated during the small group sessions of the workshop. Some of the key discussion points related to these challenges and solutions are summarised below according to the three main workshop topics.

6.1. Accessing

Workshop participants agreed that there was a strong need to create a platform or database for storing and accessing the wealth of research and evidence outputs generated throughout the RCRC network. There was widespread agreement that it would be preferable to develop or draw from an existing platform or database with several existing platforms discussed. Participants suggested that Fednet was not a viable option for a number of reasons: few participants used it on a regular basis, it had a weak search function which made it difficult to find what was required, and it was generally perceived as a “dumping ground”. There was some support for the use of the Learning Platform by drawing on its potential to extend learning beyond training and into the realm of knowledge management and information sharing. It was suggested that a mapping exercise could be done to kick off the database and to encourage stakeholders to contribute more by highlighting the usefulness of an integrated knowledge management system.

Regardless of which platform or database could be used to incorporate knowledge management related to research and evidence, participants highlighted the need to ensure that it would be relevant, reliable, updatable and meet the needs of stakeholders. Some participants also discussed the need to ensure quality control of the data and information received. This last recommendation was related to broader discussions about the need to clearly define standards for what good quality research and evidence includes and does not include to avoid the platform or database being overwhelmed with poor quality data. It was also suggested that a database that linked to other established and rigorous sources of evidence (such as Evidence Aid, WHO, and Cochrane database) could contribute to building the quality and credibility of the database contributions.

Some participants expressed concerns that there were already so many different existing platforms or databases being used to centralise information or data that it could be overwhelming for national societies to understand which platform should be used for what type of information, thus discouraging contribution. The issue of internal or external accessibility of research and evidence was also raised, along with the importance of ensuring that partners external to the RCRC movement were able to access evidence.

Workshop participants discussed a number of complementary ways of expanding accessibility of research and evidence, included through the publication of RCRC journals and newsletters, greater social media presence, Apps, Alerts/RSS feeds and building peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge.

Although discussions focused on what kind of database, portal or mechanism would be most appropriate to meet the needs of stakeholders, workshop participants also raised the topic of accessibility in relation to the communication of clear and comprehensible research outputs and recommendations. The production and communication of simple, clear and digestible research findings and recommendations was identified as highly relevant to a number of different users, including volunteers and local community members, and policy and decision makers. In particular, it was suggested that policy and decision makers required hierarchical and strategic information from a neutral viewpoint, with recommendations presented in concise and condensed formats. In relation to reaching volunteers and local community members, a unidirectional model of knowledge management was critiqued whereby knowledge is often produced by engaging volunteers and communities who provide data or help to collect it, without a mechanism for ensuring their access to knowledge outputs or outcomes.

6.2.Sharing

Challenges identified in relation to sharing information on research and evidence- based practice mostly related to two key aspects:

- Difficulties associated with knowing what information to access where, (i.e. there is not a good information sharing system in place), and
- Difficulties working with external partners and developing a mutual understanding of expectations, interests and capacities.

The opportunities identified in the discussions referred to support for a stronger engagement of reference centres in research, and leveraging partnerships to increase capacities and funding.

It was agreed that reference centres can take a stronger role in consolidating the research interests and demands and adding capacities, i.e. as a clearing house. However, it is not viable to transfer the responsibility for research entirely to reference centres since they also have limited capacities and there is not a reference centre specialized in every work area or region. As many participants were not aware of the existence of the reference centres, there is a clear need to make centres and their support function more visible within the movement. A list of reference centres can be viewed here <http://www.ifrc.org/en/get-involved/learning-education-training/reference-centres/>

As for external partnerships, workshop participants recognised the benefits in terms of additional technical capacities, added credibility and a stronger position to draw in funding. To strengthen RCRC actors' position in establishing partnerships with external actors, a movement-wide research agenda is necessary to consolidate and articulate RCRC research needs and trajectories. In addition, a partnership guide which provides direction and assistance on rules and expectations for partnerships was identified as a welcomed resource. This will help National Societies to build capacity to retain their voice in defining partnership agreements and, in particular, having sustained access to data ownership.

6.3.Using

The key challenges identified in using research and evidence strongly mirrored those raised in previous IFRC needs and capacity assessments and the workshop consultation data. These challenges and examples of possible solutions are summarised in Table 1 below. It should be noted that the creation of a movement-wide strategy for research and evidence-based approaches was raised as a solution for most of the challenges identified.

Table 1 CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FOR USING RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<p>Lack of capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge about research • Lack of knowledge about how to translate findings and recommendations into practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement wide agenda and strategy for research and evidence • Set up and promote RCRC learning mechanisms, including a database of past, current and planned research activities • Create tools, guidelines, standard procedures, quality control measures • More sharing of concrete examples of how research has been translated into practice. • Conduct peer-to-peer meetings and training through online platform, e.g. Skype or webex • Plan research side-events at other workshops, conferences and meetings to increase communication between sectors • Increase partnerships with universities and other specialist institutions • Create more joint proposals (e.g. with both intra-movement and external partners) • Adjust recommendations for different NSs depending on the context and level of capacity
<p>Lack of research funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of external funding and therefore priorities • Lack of internal funding and therefore commitment • Lack of funding to implement research recommendations • Research recommendations may not align with donor interests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build research and implementation into proposals/plans and budgets, from the outset so they aren't siloed activities. • Collaboration with universities, student projects, policy centres and other organisations doing research. • Build database/matrix of possible donors based on geographical and technical interests
<p>Lack of buy-in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research not seen as an investment • Not always buy in from external partners such as donors • Internal management community often divided into doers vs. thinkers (doers may not see the importance of research and may not support research with funding or commitment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement wide agenda and strategy for research and evidence • Show added value of research by producing success stories and case studies. • Bring in stakeholders at all stages of a project or programme, including research and data collection phases, so decision makers are exposed to the concept of an evidence-based approach from the beginning. • Track progress so we know how recommendations affect outcomes (identify a tracking tool). • Train decision makers about what good research is. • Be internal advocates for evidence based approaches (be a promoter who can champion change and lead by example) • Easy access to information by clear and concrete recommendations • Engage all stakeholders in formulating research questions and recommendations
<p>Evidence related to failure is typically not shared</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on what works, but what about what doesn't work? • Fear of failure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage sharing and publication of research and M&E that highlights failure as well as success • Promote culture of honesty
<p>Lack of focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are doing too much • We have unfocused and ad hoc approaches to research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure movement wide agenda and strategy for research and evidence is focused

7. Synthesis and steps forward

The final workshop session served to synthesize the discussions from the previous sessions on accessing, sharing and using research to propose concrete actions including what needs to be done, how it should be done and who would be best placed to contribute or implement it. Participants then voted individually on the key actions to take forward.

The majority of votes endorsed a roadmap to integrate research and evidence base into programming and strategic planning that include the following steps:

1. Position and endorsement of research and evidence based approaches at the General Assembly 2015
2. Form mentoring group to guide the process with inclusion of research and reference centres, NSs, research labs in universities, and IFRC Learning and Research Dept.
3. Create ToRs for trainings on the integration of research and evidence-based approaches into humanitarian work for leaders, technical programme people (implementers) and researchers
4. Create a research strategy. The development of this strategy starts in the training and other levels of the roadmap.
5. Implementation of M&E including beneficiary testimonies, stories and feedback. Need to ensure that we research failures as well as successes
6. Evidence-base informs everyday business

The distinct actions that garnered most agreement are captured in Table 2.

Next steps

In addition to the actions mentioned in the table, the opportunity for creating a working group was discussed to enhance the integration of research and evidence based practice throughout the Red Cross and Red Crescent network. While there was agreement with the need for such a group, there was moderate interest of participants to be actively engaged in the working group. The workshop organizers agreed to develop a Terms of Reference document to get further buy-in. It should be noted that during the lead up to and after the workshop, the IFRC and GDPC have made contact with additional IFRC and RCRC national society research focal points who did not attend the workshop but who have expressed interest in contributing to a research working group.

As a direct follow up to the workshop, an online survey link was distributed to participants to evaluate the workshop. The results of the workshop evaluation are included in Annex D. Participants were also asked to fill out a short template to capture and share information on research activities and interests. The few answers that were collected are included in Annex E. In case there is growing interest in this information and others are interested in contributing, a more structured solutions for this will be sought. If you are interested in providing and sharing your information please contact Julienne Corboz (julienne.corboz@ifrc.org) or Karin Metz (Karin.Metz2@redcross.org).

During and after the workshop, there has been some interest in converting the research and evidence workshop into an annual event hosted by different RCRC organisations, including reference centres and national societies.

Table 2 ELEMENTS OF ACTION PLAN FOR RCRC RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE BASED ACTIVITIES

WHAT?	HOW?	WHO?
HIGH PRIORITY		
Create Movement wide research strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consolidate priority topics across RCRC network • include information on quality control, standards and ethics • link up with global initiatives, i.e. One Billion Coalition 	Focal point at IFRC to coordinate and avoid duplication. Requires input and contributions from across the network. training/capacity building on standards, ethics
Training and capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ethics and standards • systematic approaches to research • efficient and systematic information collection 	Collect good practice from IFRC and NS with experience in these areas	Contributing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British RC • Centre for Evidence Based Practice/Belgian RC Flanders • IFRC • external research partners
Build networks and enhance exchange	Organize local marketplace events to showcase and learn about research interests and initiatives	Collaboration of reference centres with IFRC and NS focal points
MEDIUM PRIORITY		
Partnership toolkit	Leverage existing experiences and good practice Build on existing partnerships by developing a partnership matrix both for internal and external partners.	TBD
Database including information on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research activities within RCRC • donors/funders • research partners • case studies • feedback system 	Possibly link up with Federation wide reporting system/mapping. Planning for the database will have to include the demonstration of tangible benefits for people to contribute and actively use it. Feedback system needs to be included.	IFRC with input/experience from NSs and reference centres
Rules of thumbs and standards for quality control	Developed based on Movement's best practices and literature review	

Annex A Pre-workshop consultation findings

The main sources of existing evidence regularly accessed by participants' organisations were peer-reviewed journals, evaluations and reports, particularly those published internally by RCRC movement actors, or by NGOs and other humanitarian organisations. Other common sources were primary research, secondary data, and official statistics (such as from bureaus of statistics).

When asked to give an example of how their organisation had incorporated research or evidence into decision making, the most frequent responses referred to the incorporation of research and evidence into informing the development of strategic planning, policies, and advocacy. Fewer responses referred to how the use of research and evidence have led directly to the design or modification of programs or interventions. Some exceptions were related to M&E and how evaluations of operations or learning/training have led to recommendations and improvement of service delivery or working methodologies. Overall, there appears to be a consistent gap between the development of recommendations (i.e. policy, programming and operational recommendations) and the implementation of those recommendations.

Participants expressed little recognition of existing structured or formalised approaches to feeding evidence into decision making within their organisational contexts; however, there was a lot of interest in developing such structured. Those who described a structured approach were mainly from organisations that are directly linked to the production of research or evidence (such as IFRC reference centres or Red Cross University institutions) or national societies that have a formalised research unit or department. These structured approaches were generally described in relation to operational or policy strategies, with direct links to senior management teams. A few participants described attempting to develop formal approaches to feeding evidence into decision making at an individual project or programme level, but the challenge appears to be how to extend this at a broader organisational level and not just in relation to discrete projects.

The three most frequently cited challenges to incorporating research and evidence into decision making were lack of funding, challenges getting buy-in and limited research capacity. Responses related to lack of buy-in were mainly related to difficulties engaging stakeholders (particularly senior management, board members and decision makers) who had poor awareness of the value of research and evidence-based practice. Perceptions of lack of research capacity were largely related to internal research capacity, but also lack of capacity to collaborate/cooperate with partners, and the lack of capacity of partners themselves. Other challenges included: limited access to quality evidence, poor understanding of what evidence is or isn't, lack of strategic thinking and too much focus on ad-hoc research, unclear pathways between recommendations and implementation, and resistance to cultural and institutional change in highly structured organisations.

While the workshop was mostly focused on the relevance of research and evidence to feed into institutional decision making, there was a number of other uses that participants saw as relevant. The respondents listed three major areas that benefit from research including positioning of the RCRC network in the humanitarian and international development arena by creating legitimacy and supporting advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy efforts; RCRC service implementation by providing learning that can feed into better service delivery and guide programming; and operational aspects by supporting fundraising and resource mobilization as well as knowledge management.

To feed into the discussion on how research and evidence is accessed and shared, participants were asked to list the most frequently used mechanisms or platforms they used to share the evidence and research with partners. The majority of sharing mechanisms aimed at a rather passive engagement of audiences by pushing information out through websites and online portals, publications in journals, reports and papers and presentation at conferences. While there were valuable experiences that we can draw on, for example how to publish research work in peer-reviewed journals, the majority of respondents were unsatisfied with the way information is shared out and there is a clear need to discuss additional mechanisms.

To draw out the already existing experiences with establishing partnerships in the area of research, participants were asked to describe both a challenge and a success they had experienced with partnering for research. Most success examples that were mentioned directly related to the additional capacities the partners were able to contribute both on the topics and the implementation of research. Challenges were mostly related to different expectations between partners and the efforts it requires to align expectations, work processes and ensure understanding of how the Movement operates.

The last survey question asked for participant's expectations of the workshop. The answers showed an alignment in the need to learn how research and learning can be better integrated into National Society and IFRC operation and how information can be better accessed and shared, the need to enhance the research function of the IFRC and RCRC network overall, and the expectation to meet colleagues and learn about other research activities. It was encouraging to see the willingness of participants to actively contribute to a stronger research system within the RCRC network.

Annex B Workshop agenda

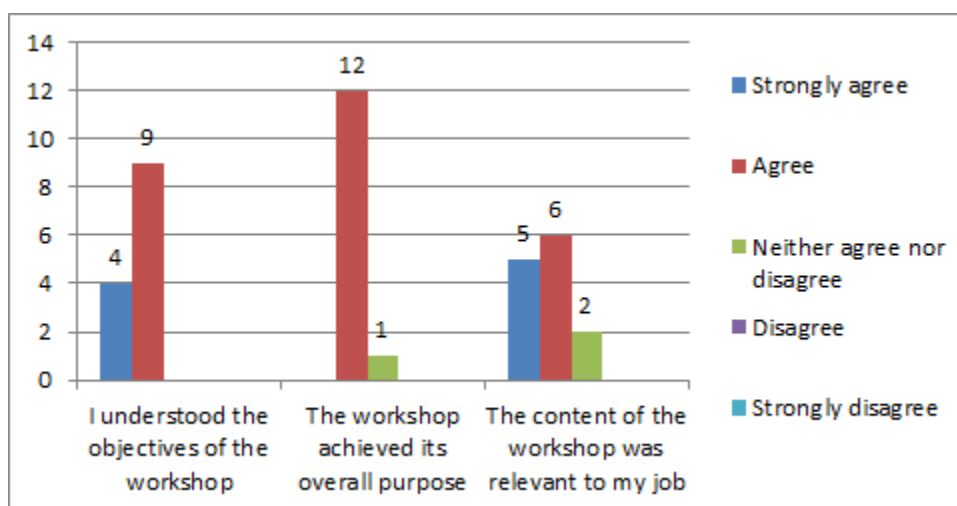
DAY 1 – Tuesday, May 19 th		DAY 2 – Wednesday, May 20 th	
8:30	Registration and coffee	8:30	Registration and coffee
9:00	Welcome and introduction	9:00	Welcome back and recap of Day 1
10:30	Where do we want to go? Defining the overarching vision for uptake of research & evidence, and integration into decision making Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmy De Buck, Centre for Evidence Based Practice, Belgian Red Cross Flanders • Scott Chaplowe, Planning and Evaluation Department, IFRC 	9:30	Using research and evidence for the benefit of humanitarian work Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruno Haghebaert, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations on Disaster Reduction • Aude Galli, East Africa and Indian Ocean Regional Representation office, IFRC Small group work on bridging the gap between developing recommendations and implementation
11:10	BREAK	11:00	BREAK
11:25	Where do we want to go? Defining the overarching vision for uptake of research & evidence, and integration into decision making (cont.) Group discussion to create shared understanding of vision.	11:15	Accessing, sharing and using research and evidence: synthesize ideas from the discussions Small groups synthesize their discussion from previous three sessions
12:45	LUNCH & NETWORKING	12:45	LUNCH & NETWORKING
13:45	Accessing research and evidence across the RCRC network Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josephine Shields-Recass, Learning and Research Department, IFRC Small group work on access needs of different actors groups.	13:45	Going forward – building solutions Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian O'Donnell, Global Disaster Preparedness Center Discussion on prioritizing solutions and pathways to go forward.
15:15	BREAK	15:15	BREAK
15:30	Sharing research and evidence through more effective partnerships Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Andrew Cartwright, Central European University Small group work on research partnerships.	15:30	Going forward – building solutions (cont.) Conclusions, commitments and revisiting objectives and planned outputs.
17:00	Exchange between small groups work		
17:30	WRAP UP DAY 1	17:30	WRAP UP DAY 2

Annex C Workshop evaluation

Two weeks after the completion of the workshop, organisers circulated an anonymous online evaluation survey to capture participants' perceptions and learning from the workshop. Thirteen workshop participants responded to the survey.

The majority of workshop participants either agreed or strongly agreed that they understood the objectives of the workshop, the workshop achieved its overall purpose and the content of the workshop was relevant to their job (see Table 1). A small number of participants neither agreed nor disagreed with the second and third statements, and agreement that the workshop achieved its overall purpose was slightly weaker than for other statements. Open-ended comments suggested that some participants felt that the workshop did not necessarily go far enough in achieving its main objective of developing solutions. One participant further specified that they would have liked to have gone further in the planning for a knowledge-sharing system. Other open-ended comments indicated that participants recognised the importance of the workshop in highlighting issues central to strengthening research and evidence in RCRC national societies and the IFRC, and in creating a research network or community committed to this initiative. One participant cautioned, however, that the initiative would probably not last without reference and feedback from the field and support from decision makers.

Table 1: Agreement with statements related to workshop objectives, purpose and relevance (n=13)



Participants were asked to list one word that summed up their experience of the workshop. A range of words were listed, including: useful, eye-opening, resourceful, interesting, unusual, fun, connecting, encouraging, great and enlightening.

When asked what lessons they took away from the workshop, participants gave diverse responses. The most common responses were those that highlighted increased learning about the role of research and evidence in humanitarian organisations and, in particular, what the IFRC and RCRC national societies were doing in relation to research and evidence-based practice. There was particular interest in the existence of IFRC reference centres, which a number of participants did not know existed. Some participants also highlighted taking away a greater understanding of the importance of using evidence-based approaches, the realisation that everybody is struggling in this area, and a renewed enthusiasm after experiencing the commitment of the group to building a culture of research within the IFRC and RCRC national societies. Several participants also highlighted gaining opportunities for collaboration and partnership, including gaining a better understanding of how an evidence-based approach can be used to strengthen partnerships and recognising the importance of developing better

knowledge-sharing practices to increase research coordination and collaboration. One participant suggested that the workshop had provoked some reflections about how well national society research focal points understand the process through which decision makers make their decisions based on evidence and what factors may influence this process (e.g. motivations, trust and favour for certain types of evidence).

Workshop participants were asked to describe if there was anything that could have been done differently or improved. Following on from feedback given during the workshop, some participants would have liked more time allocated to informal networking and in-depth sharing of information about existing research interests and activities. One participant suggested that a “learning market” or other similar forum to facilitate more active exchange of research and learning experiences would have been a welcomed addition to the workshop. In line with other comments given in the evaluation survey, a few participants suggested that the workshop could have focused more on concrete solutions and steps forward, with perhaps too much focus on challenges that could have been summarised at the beginning. Several participants gave suggestions for additional content, modes of participation and facilitation techniques that could have strengthened the learning from and impact of the workshop. These include: more representation from research partners in different regions, a presentation from a national society that could clearly show best research practice, mixing up participants in small groups for each session rather than keeping groups static, and more clarity about the activities of the Learning and Research Department in order to avoid overlap of discussions about activities that are already being planned in the IFRC.

Participants gave a range of suggestions for future research and evidence activities or initiatives that would be useful. The most common responses involved research capacity building activities. Several participants recommended implementing more research training, particularly for those national societies not implementing research or evidence-based approaches but wishing to do so. Possible topics for training included research methods, M&E, sharing findings and more effective partnering with academic institutions. One participant highlighted the possibility of connecting such training and capacity building events to future workshops (e.g. conducting training before or after the workshop). One participant encouraged more active sharing of research tools and documents developed by the IFRC or national societies. Another participant suggested more direct mentoring whereby national societies effectively implementing research and evidence-based activities can support and advise those who are beginning to conduct or interested in conducting such activities.

Other common suggestions for future research activities or initiatives focused more on better knowledge sharing and management. Several participants expressed enthusiasm for developing a mapping exercise of current and past RCRC research projects, or the development of a knowledge sharing mechanism or platform to more effectively share research, evidence and related information across the RCRC movement (which would be in line with the solutions discussed during the workshop related to poor sharing of research and evidence). One participant suggested that for future workshops, information on research activities could be collected from workshop participants as a task in preparation for the workshop. Another participant suggested that information about research projects and activities could be part of future workshops through presentations on research findings.

Several participants made suggestions for future activities centred on building better governance structures to guide effective research and evidence-based practice. These activities included defining what research is for the RCRC movement, building an agenda and strategy for research in the IFRC and national societies, defining standards and ethics for research, developing a network of researchers and academic partners who have worked with the IFRC and national societies and guidance on how to more effectively communicate research findings to donors, partners and decision makers.

Annex D Information on NS/IFRC Research Activities

During the workshop, feedback was received by some participants who suggested that the focus on building solutions did not leave enough informal space for participants to network and discuss common research activities and interests. As a follow up to this feedback, the workshop organisers sent out a template to collect information from participants about their research interests, activities, projects and partners. This information is synthesised in the table below.

Organisation	Key research areas and topics	Relevant research projects to highlight	Research partners	Interest areas to learn from others	Sources of information for research projects	Contact information
Belgian Red Cross-Flanders Centre for Evidence-Based Practice	The Belgian Red Cross-Flanders supports its activities by searching for scientific evidence as a basis to decide which activities are most effective and cost-effective. This methodology results in <u>evidence-based guidelines</u> to support volunteers in their activities in the field. In addition, the Belgian Red Cross-Flanders also publishes scientific papers (called <u>systematic reviews</u>), which give an overview of all relevant scientific studies that might provide an answer to a scientific question relevant for the work of the Red Cross. Where gaps in	Development of evidence-based guidelines: -First aid: We developed evidence-based first aid guidelines for Europe (currently used by 32 organizations in 28 countries), and Sub-Saharan Africa (currently used by 22 different organizations). In addition we developed a systematic review on the effectiveness of first aid training in laypeople and created guidelines for first aid and the prevention of sports injuries. -Ad hoc projects: Recommendations were developed for the Social Service to support: 1) volunteers who visit elderly people to decrease their loneliness, 2) volunteers helping vulnerable school children in order to increase their competences. Development of systematic reviews: -Water and sanitation: In the disaster management field we	For several projects, such as the European, African and Indian first aid materials we already worked together with <u>Red Cross National Societies</u> from all over the world (several European and African RCNS, the India RC). <u>International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation</u> (ILCOR): From 2013 on, one of the staff members of CEbAP is taking part in the ILCOR First Aid Task Force, developing updated evidence-based international first aid guidelines for 2015. For this collaboration CEbAP works together with the <u>European</u>	Funding opportunities	http://www.rodekruis.be/en/who-are-we/research/centre-for-evidence-based-practice/ Follow us on LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/centre-for-evidence-based-practice-cebap-	Emmy.debuck@rodekruis.be Emmy De Buck Manager Centre for Evidence-Based Practice (CEbAP) T 00 32 15 44 35 14 M 00 32 497 26 39 93 Belgian Red Cross-Flanders Motstraat 40 B-2800 Mechelen

	<p>research are identified, we recently also started primary field research.</p> <p>In our research strategy we defined several core domains, with as underlying theme “prehospital care”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid • Water and sanitation • Blood donors <p>Blood platelets</p>	<p>developed a systematic review concerning the amount of water necessary per person per day in a disaster setting.</p> <p>-Blood donors: Systematic literature reviews were developed on the safety of blood of hemochromatosis patients or MSM (men who have sex with men) blood donors, about the scientific basis for ‘the blood type diet’ and about adverse effects in hypotensive blood donors.</p> <p>Primary research: -Study about retention of first aid knowledge in skills (Nepal)</p>	<p><u>Resuscitation Council (ERC)</u></p> <p><u>Evidence Aid</u>: The Cochrane Collaboration’s Evidence Aid project was established by The Cochrane Collaboration following the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004. It uses knowledge from Cochrane Reviews and other systematic reviews to provide reliable, up-to-date evidence on interventions that might be considered in the context of natural disasters and other major healthcare emergencies. Together with Evidence Aid we try to set priorities for the disaster setting. We co-hosted their conference in 2012.</p> <p>Several experts worldwide: For our guideline projects we always involve a multidisciplinary expert panel. Consequently we are building up a network of experts worldwide.</p>			
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			One example of such a cooperation is with the <u>South-African Cochrane Centre</u> , who's director chaired our expert panel developing African first aid guidelines.			
[Security Research/German Red Cross] [Team 23 – Civil Protection and Voluntary Services]	Simulation for resource management, food security/supply, cross border cooperation in case of catastrophes, strengthening voluntary engagement in civil protection, strengthening urban citizen support for crisis response & strengthening vulnerable regions through voluntary engagement (Germany & India), integrating un-affiliated volunteers into crisis management, volunteers management in accordance with volunteers' motivations and needs	<p>ENSURE: Enablement of Urban Citizen Support for Crisis Response - The ENSURE project is developing a concept to involve voluntary helpers especially in the phase of isolation where no relief forces have yet arrived.</p> <p>INKA: (Professional integration of volunteers into crisis management) – The research project INKA suggests solutions for the professional integration of volunteers in crisis management and civil protection, including the integration of un-affiliated volunteers and fostering successful cooperation with enterprises</p> <p>COBACORE (Community Based Comprehensive Recovery): The project investigates how a needs-capacity matching between professionals, affected community and volunteers (responding community) can be improved through communication via the COBACORE platform.</p>	<p>ENSURE: Fire Brigade Berlin, Fraunhofer FOKUS, Freie Universität Berlin, Fire Brigade Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin</p> <p>INKA: Berlin Fire Department, University of Greifswald (Institute for Psychology), University of Stuttgart (Institute for Human Factors and Technology Management (IAT), Fraunhofer IAO Stuttgart, Federal Citizen Involvement Network (BBE), as well as all (!) German relief organizations</p> <p>COBACORE: The Netherlands Red Cross, IFRC, TNO, University of Zilina, University of Ulster, Tilburg University, Geopii, Future Analytics</p>	<p>ENSURE: New forms of engagement besides classical volunteering</p> <p>COBACORE: Communication and coordination between professionals, affected community and volunteers (responding community) especially during the recovery phase</p>	<p>INKA: www.inka-sicherheitsforschung.de (German) image clip https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGzJ5-0FsmQ (English)</p> <p>COBACORE: http://www.cobacore.eu/</p>	<p>ENSURE: Franziska Krämer, Scientific Associate, kraemerf@drk.de, +493085404243</p> <p>INKA: Bianca Ely, Scientific Associate, ElyB@drk.de; +49-30-85404-809</p> <p>COBACORE: Anja Kleinebrahn, Scientific Associate, kleineba@drk.de, +49-30-85404-283</p>

<p>Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC) American Red Cross/IFRC</p>	<p>Four key research areas: 1. Effectiveness of disaster preparedness work (cost-benefit analysis, metrics, downstream application) 2. Disaster preparedness in urban environments (assessments, governance, disaster law, advocacy) 3. Technology and disaster preparedness (social media, mobile phones, games) 4. Promote innovative disaster preparedness approaches (small grants program)</p>	<p>“Valuing what works – Success Factors for Disaster Preparedness work”: ethnographic study to better understand what practitioners need to support their success in highly dynamic and decentralized humanitarian environments.</p> <p>“Comparative review of social media analysis tools for preparedness” build out the current knowledge and awareness on how humanitarian actors can leverage information from social media channels to assess and display interests in preparedness topics and disaster related events on different timelines and identify trends in humanitarian work.</p> <p>“Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA)”: Support the enhancements of the (VCA) as one of the most widely used RCRC toolkits, focused on training, quality assurance and information management.</p> <p>Small grants program “Preparedness and Resilience Research”: working through the global university network of the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy, Tulane University, small grants are provided to local researcher to conduct small scale projects addressing key needs.</p>	<p>University of Washington, Human Centered Design and Engineering Department</p> <p>Response 2 Resilience Institute affiliated with Tulane University</p> <p>Nanyang Technological University, Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information</p> <p>Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET)</p> <p>Trilateral Research and Consulting</p>	<p>Development of evidence base for disaster preparedness and risk reduction interventions</p> <p>How to facilitate research uptake – approaches on how to integrate this aspect into the conceptualization of projects and activities</p>	<p>www.preparecenter.org</p> <p>http://preparecenter.org/activities/gdpc-research-activities</p>	<p>gdpc@redcross.org Ian O'Donnell, Sr. Information Architect, lan.Odonnell@redcross.org , +1 202 303 4489 Karin Metz, Research Associate, karin.metz2@redcross.org , +1 202 303 4383</p>
<p>IFRC Learning and Research Department</p>	<p>World Disasters Report</p>	<p>World Disasters Report (WDR)</p>	<p>- University of East Anglia</p>	<p>Developing trends in research</p>	<p>World Disasters Report</p>	<p>Josephine Shield Recass, Research</p>

	Capacity building for disaster risk management Partnerships	Strategic research on local and national capacity building for disaster risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oxford Policy Management - Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex - Overseas Development Institute (ODI) - Stockholm Environmental Institute - Brookings Institute - UNOCHA - IOM - UNHCR - WHO - UNICEF - WFP - ASEAN (South east Asia) - Tufts University - PeriPeri U - ALNAP - International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) - Steering committee for humanitarian response (SCHR) - SPHERE <p>[Note that there are multiple other partners working with IFRC Learning and Research Dept on World Disasters Report]</p>	<p>Key research interests and activities in NSs</p> <p>Opportunities for research collaboration with NSs and reference centres</p> <p>Information on how reference centres and NSs are currently funding research and what are the long term prospects for fundraising</p>	<p>https://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/world-disasters-report/world-disasters-report/</p> <p>Strategic research on local and national capacity building for disaster risk management http://www.ifrc.org/en/get-involved/learning-education-training/research/capacity-building-for-disaster-risk-management/</p> <p>http://preparecenter.org/resources/strategic-research-national-and-local-capacity-building-disaster-risk-management</p>	<p>Project Coordinator, josephine.shieldsreass@ifrc.org, +41 22 730 4652</p> <p>Julienne Corboz, Senior Research Officer, julienne.corboz@ifrc.org, +41 22 730 4667</p>
IFRC Southern Africa	Evaluation of health programming, specifically	Multi-drug resistant tuberculosis community-based care and adherence	University of Namibia	Data collection and analysis	Tools and resources for mobile technology	Erin Law Regional Health Delegate

<p>Regional Office Health, Disaster and Communications</p>	<p>community based service delivery models (in HIV and tuberculosis).</p> <p>Evaluation of disaster preparedness programming, especially of long term programmes for disaster risk reduction and how they contribute to community resilience.</p> <p>Evaluation of beneficiary communications in emergencies.</p>	<p>The MDR-TB project implemented in the Eastern Cape, South Africa with funding from USAID through the IFRC southern Africa regional office has been running for the last six years. The project focuses on three implementation sites in the Eastern Cape – Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage and East London. The Eastern Cape Provincial Red Cross through their project manager, supervisors and caregivers have worked to reduce the impact of MDR-TB by taking a patient-centred approach to ensure patients are not lost to follow up (previously known as default). Despite the vulnerabilities of the patients enrolled in the project, adherence rates have remained above 95 per cent.</p> <p>Research was undertaken in May 2015 to investigate and document the reasons for these high adherence rates through interviews with clients who have successfully completed the treatment regimen and with caregivers. Eight caregivers who provide community based support through homes and clinics and 8 clients who had successfully completed treatment participated through semi-structured interviews. Grounded theory will be used for the analysis of data collected over the next few months. The intention of this will be to use the</p>	<p>International Research Institute for Climate and Society</p> <p>SenseMaker Group</p>	<p>utilizing mobile technology</p> <p>Research methodology for beneficiary communications</p>	<p>data collection and analysis:</p> <p>RAMP (Rapid Assessment using Mobile Phone technology) toolkit http://www.ifrc.org/ramp</p> <p>Open Data Kit https://opendatakit.org/</p> <p>AkvoFlow http://akvo.org/products/akvoflow/</p> <p>Source for methodology for Grounded theory analysis: Thomas, D.R. 2003, A general inductive approach for qualitative data analysis, School of Population Health University of Auckland: http://www.frankumstein.com/PDF/Psychology/Inductive%20Content%20Analysis.pdf</p>	<p>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Southern Africa Regional Office 135 Independence Avenue PO Box 1820 ABG Sebele Gaborone Botswana Tel: +267 371 2700 Dir: +267 371 2711 Mob. +267 71 467 127 Email: erin.law@ifrc.org Skype: erin.cocomo</p>
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		<p>finding of these interviews to provide information to the donor, stakeholders and researchers in the TB control field.</p> <p>Cost benefit analysis (CBA) of livelihoods recovery Under Zambezi River Basin Initiative (ZRBI), IFRC`s Southern Africa Regional Office works with communities along the Zambezi River in Zambia, Namibia, Botswana and Malawi to help them better prepare for the challenges of drought and flooding in the short-term, and become more resilient and secure in the long-term.</p> <p>The purpose of the participatory cost benefit analysis is to identify key aspects and outputs of post-disaster preparedness and investment of ZRBI activities that contributed to improved livelihoods recovery in the Zambezi region (Namibia) and Sesheke and Kazung districts (Zambia).</p> <p>The study`s objectives were: 1. to document the evolution of the livelihoods programme/ intervention of the Namibia and Zambia Red Cross Societies, touching on the approach to planning, implementation, follow-up and sustainability, 2. to identify the key aspects and outputs of the programme`s evolution that have contributed towards sustainable outcomes</p>				
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		<p>leading to the enhanced awareness and resilience of communities; and</p> <p>3. to undertake an impact and cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of the livelihoods programme in conjunction with disaster response operations undertaken by the national societies.</p> <p>This cost benefit study will contribute to a broader Federation-wide effort to improve sustainable livelihoods performance measurement and impact analysis . This includes identification and definition of measurable and objective indicators of recovery, community safety, resilience and development of livelihoods recovery impact assessment and CBA methodologies applicable by National Societies.</p> <p>SenseMaker 1,000 stories were collected through SenseMaker. SenseMaker is a new 'pre-hypothesis' form of narrative-based research that aims to seek a more realistic understanding of complex issues. It is used to support more realistic and targeted decision-making as well as monitoring impact in real-time. Data collected is collected as narratives (micro-stories) or anecdotal reflections (rather than opinions or feelings). Respondents then use the SenseMaker software to to</p>				
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		<p>signify what their own stories mean.</p> <p>In total 15 researchers were trained to cover two research areas, eight in Zambezi and seven in Kunene regions in late 2014. The training was done over three days and covered introduction to the methodology and how it can be used to understand and unpack complexities in different settings. The training covered details of different types of information that can be gathered through analysis of the stories to be collected. This improved the researchers' understanding of the process and the rationale behind the study and methodology.</p> <p>The Southern Africa Regional Office also continues to evaluate our disaster response mechanisms through DREF and Emergency Appeal reviews, conducts baseline surveys, and is increasingly utilizing mobile technology for data collection.</p>				
Swedish Red Cross University College (SRCUC)	<p>Three key research themes:</p> <p>1. Health in Global Transitions. Research leader: Professor Eva von Strauss</p> <p>2. Health Promotion and Resilience. Research leader: Professor Fredrik Saboonchi</p>	<p>In respective research theme (see above):</p> <p>1. - Humanitarian nursing in a viral haemorrhagic fever outbreak (Ebola). - Women's voices in a shifting global health landscape.</p> <p>2. - Coping Effectiveness Training for patients with chronic diseases.</p>	<p>Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden <input type="checkbox"/> KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden <input type="checkbox"/> IFRC, Geneva, Switzerland 	How to develop structured partnership regarding research and evaluation in the areas of field work and operations of the Red Cross and Red	<p>SRCUC homepage: http://www.rkh.se</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> DIVA is a common search service and an open archive for our research publications: http://rkh.diva-portal.org/smash/s 	<p>Eva.von.Strauss@redcross.se , Professor in Public Health Science – Epidemiology in Health</p> <p>Fredrik.Saboonchi@rkh.se , Professor in Public Health Science - Health Psychology</p>

	<p>3. Health and Technology Development. Research leader: Professor Henrik Eriksson</p>	<p>- Prevalence of torture and trauma among refugees in Sweden. 3. - Evaluation of central venous lines used for chemotherapy in women with breast cancer. - Developing and implementing education program for Mobile Health Care Workers in Bangladesh utilizing Information- and Communication Technologies.</p>	<p>□ Care and Migration Unit, Swedish Red Cross</p>	<p>Crescent movement. - Approaching a strategy regarding funding of such partnership. - How to use the academic resources at hand to its full extent – i.e. the SRCUC in Stockholm can enrol doctoral students, conduct research in collaboration and facilitate guest researchers or guest other places for conduct research for shorter or longer periods of time.</p>	<p>earch.jsf?dswid=624</p>	<p>Henrik.Eriksson@kh.se , Professor in Nursing</p>
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